(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) to (c) The relevant information is being collected and it will be laid on the table of the House.

World Bank aid for Cleansing Yamuna

2809. SHRIMATI VEENA VARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan for cleansing the Yamuna and preventing further pollution of Yamuna waters, in and around the capital with World Bank aid;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, its cost and the World Bank aid expected therefor; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far for cleansing the Yamuna?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No plan for cleansing the Yamuna and for preventing the further pollution of Yamuna waters with World Bank aid in and around the capital is under consideration.

(b) Docs not arise.

(c) The Yamuna Action Plan was launched in April, 1993. Under this Plan, a capacity to treat 745 million litres per day of sewage will be created. The plan is in various stages of progress. Schemes have been sanctioned for a sum of Rs. 451.47 crores in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. The Schemes sanctioned. include (1) interception and diversion works (2) sewage treatment plants (3) low cost sanitation (4) river front development works (5) afforestation and (6) construction of crematoria. Two sewage treatment plants and an electric crematorium have been taken up in Delhi under the Plan. In addition, the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi under its own plan is constructing sewage treatment plants with appurtenant works at an approved cost of Rs. 469.67 crores. All these plants, except one will be completed by December, 1999. The remaining sewage treatment plant is targeted for completion by June, 2000.

Extinction of Wild Ass

2810. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA:
SHRI C. RAMA-CHANDRAIAH:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the salt industry and noise and air pollution are driving wild ass in the Rann of Kutch to extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to protect the endangered species in their habitat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) An area of 4953.70 sq. km. has been declared as Wild Ass Sanctuary and the settlement of its boundaries is being done on top priority.

Lead contents in the atmosphere in Delhi

2811. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the lead content in - the atmosphere over Delhi has dropped by 61% the suspended particulate matter (SPM) level has remained consistently high at about 359 mg/m^3 over the last ten years;

(b) whether this SPM level of pollution was responsible for a rise of 28% in deaths in 1995;

(c) whether the SPM level is three times higher than the permissible level; and

(d) if so, what action Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the lead content in the atmosphere in Delhi has dropped by 61% after introduction of unleaded petrol. The annual mean concentration of suspended particulate matter (SPM) for all the monitoring stations, located in residential areas has indicated decreasing trend since 1995 when the annual average was 409 ug/m^3 as compared to 341 ug/m^3 in 1998.

(b) There is no conclusive scientific data to establish that the SPM was responsible for rise of 28% deaths in 1995.

(c) According to the CPCB, the suspended particulate matter (SPM) levels in residential areas are exceeding the prescribed standards by a factor of 2 to 3, whereas in the industrial areas the SPM levels are generally within the limits but at times exceed the standard by a factor of 1.5 on annual average basis.

(d) The measures taken by the Government to control pollution including SPM levels are as under:

* An Action Plan for Delhi has been prepared and is under implementation.

* Environment pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority for the National Capital Region of Delhi- has been constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for control of pollution in Delhi.

* To control vehicular emissions, the standards have been laid down. The Government of NCT of Delhi is implementing these emission standards.

* Catalytic convenor equipped passenger cars have been introduced from April 1, 1995.

* Shifting of polluting units in conforming Industrial Areas.

* Closing of hazardous units in Delhi.

* Introduction of unleaded petrol in Delhi with effect from September 1, 1998.

* Fuel quality specifications for petrol and diesel driven vehicles have been notified effective from 1.4.1996 and 1.4.2000.

* Retrofitment of CNG kits for Government vehicles.

* Low sulphur diesel (0.25%) has been introduced in Delhi effective from 1.4.1998.

* Specification of 2-stroke engine oil has been notified effective from 1.4.1999.

* Pre-mixed 2-T oils are being supplied in the retail fuel outlets in Delhi to prevent the sale of low-quality fuel.

* Inter-sectoral committee has been constituted during 1997 to finalize more stringent emission norms effective from 1.4.2005 for vehicles at the manufacturing stage.

* Promotion of use of alternative/clean fuels.

* Mass emission norms are being progressively tightened.

* Phasing out of 15 years old commercial vehicles.

Floods in Kaziranga National Park

2812. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 7th September, 1998 under the caption, "No animals in flooded Kaziranga";